

Project of Heart

Illuminating the hidden history of
Indian Residential Schools in BC

Links



BC Teachers' Federation

Recommended resources



Imagine
(page 3)

Videos



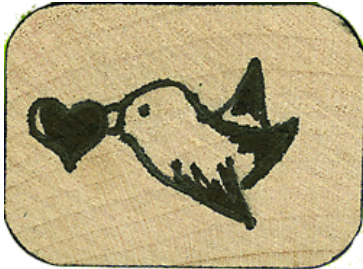
[We Were Children](#)

The profound impact of the Canadian government residential school system conveyed through the eyes of two children. (2 minute trailer)
This video is available through the [BCTF library](#).



[Canada's dark secret is finally out in the open](#)

What happened in residential schools amounts to nothing short of... (2 minute video)



[Shi-Shi Etko](#)

A moving story about the practice of removing native children from their villages and sending them to residential school. (6 minute trailer)
This video is available through the [BCTF library](#).

Recommended resources

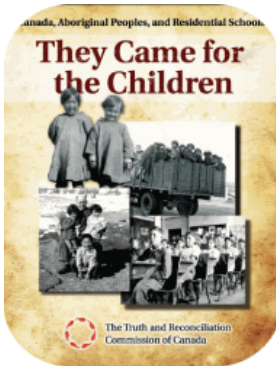


BC Indian Residential Schools
(page 5)



[Mavericks](#)

A video clip following the important work done by Charlene Bearhead through the Project of Heart (17 minutes)



[They Came for the Children](#)

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada published this history as a part of its mandate to educate the Canadian public about residential schools and their place in Canadian History. For the child taken and the parent left behind, the commission encourages all Canadians to read this history, to understand the legacy of the schools, and to participate in the work of reconciliation.



[Truth and Reconciliation Commission documents](#)

Printable fact sheets about each of the residential schools in BC, as well as posters on themes including church apologies, health, and work in residential schools.

Recommended resources



[8th Fire 500 years in 2 minutes – Wab Kinew](#)



[Timeline History of Aboriginal Peoples in British Columbia](#)

Selected times and events important in the history of Aboriginal peoples in BC.

[Chronologie de l'histoire des peuples autochtones en Colombie-Britannique](#)

Dates choisies et événements importants dans l'histoire des peuples autochtones.

Recommended resources



Project of Heart Opens Hearts and Minds
(page 7)

[Project of Heart B.C. website](#)



[BCTF Aboriginal Education workshops](#)

Videos



[What is Reconciliation](#) - Chief Justice Murray Sinclair (3 minutes)



[Project of Heart Quebec](#) (3 minutes)

Recommended resources



[How Project of Heart came to be](#) - Sylvia Smith (3 minutes)

Activities



[Breaking the Silence](#)



[Indian Residential School Timeline class activity](#)

Visual Aids



[Legacy of Hope timeline](#)



[Where are the Children?](#) (30 minutes)

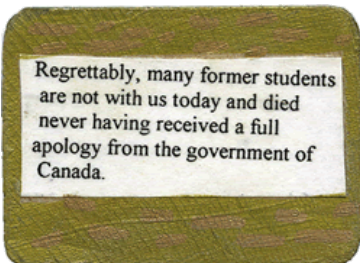
Recommended resources



Duncan Campbell Scott:
Architect of the Indian Residential School system
(page 9)



[Peter Bryce and Duncan Campbell Scott: The road not taken on residential schools](#)



[The Troubling Legacy of Duncan Campbell Scott](#)

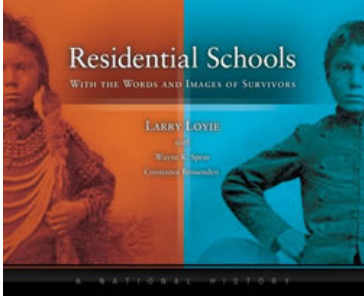


[Shocking revelations on the medical experiments carried out on children in Indian Residential schools](#)

Recommended resources



[Indian Residential School propaganda video from 1955](#) (2.5 minute video)



[Residential Schools, With the Words and Images of Survivors](#)

By award-winning author and residential school survivor Larry Loyie (Cree) with Wayne K. Spear (Mohawk) and Constance Brissenden. A highly praised, accessible national history based on 21 years of research. Includes a map of schools, key dates, index, glossary of terms, as well as the memories of more than 65 national survivors and 125 images. Grades 7 and up; full-colour, 112 pages. "Highly Recommended" -- CM Magazine; "Essential Reading" -- Canadian Children's Book Centre. Available as an iBook in February 2016.

Recommended resources



Peter Henderson Bryce: The doctor who blew the whistle on a national crime (page 11)



[Peter Bryce Report](#)

The published story from medical inspector Peter Bryce who spoke out on the terrible conditions across the country in residential schools.



[First Nations Children and Family Caring Society](#)

Dr. Bryce stood up for First Nations, Métis and Inuit children even when it was a hard thing to do because other people criticized him. He knew what was right, and in a peaceful and respectful way kept on trying to help the children. We want others to follow his example by having the courage to stand up for the right thing and help this generation of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children and youth have the same chance to succeed as other children and youth in Canada.



[Finding Heart](#) (15-minute video)

This short documentary celebrates the courage of Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce, Canada's first medical health officer, who exposed the appalling health conditions and the epidemic of TB afflicting children in residential schools. Narrated by his great-grandson Andy Bryce, the film also focuses on a class of Grade 8 students in Victoria and the central lessons they learned from studying this hidden chapter of our history.

Recommended resources



[Teaching Truth in the Classrooms](#)

Canadian Youth Address the Legacy of Indian Residential Schools. (Video 9 minutes along with a brief article)



[5 shameful truths we now know about Canada's residential school history](#)

Recommended resources



Gladys we never knew: One child, among, thousands, who didn't survive residential school

(page 15)



Original historical documents:

[Kamloops residential school Christmas letter](#)

[Return of Death of an Indian](#)

Videos



[New documents may shed light on residential school deaths –](#)

[Unmarked graves Chilliwack, BC](#) (2 minute video clip and article)

Recommended resources



[The Eyes of Children – Christmas at a residential school](#) (30 minute video)



[Residential Wreck](#)

An amazing song written by Harmony Parent and April Water's Grade 4 and 5 class dedicated to Elaine McIntosh, a residential school survivor. A song with video to inspire all ages. (7 minutes)



[Muffins for Granny](#)

The sad history of the Canadian government's residential school program has had a profound effect on First Nations peoples across the country. This is a raw and honest documentary about a difficult chapter in Canadian history - a chapter that, for some, is not over. (5 minute trailer)

Recommended resources



Childhood Marked by Humiliation and Shame
(page 17)



[Kuper Island: Returning to the Healing Circle](#)

Former students of the Kuper Island Indian Residential School, whose minds, bodies and spirits bear the scars of systematic abuse, speak out in an effort to end the code of silence. (43 minutes)

This video is also available in the [BCTF library](#).

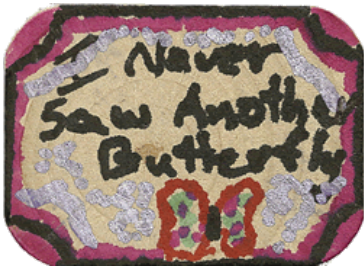


[Why Don't You People Just Get Over It](#) (6-minute video)

Recommended resources



Canadians were in denial
about residential school truths
(page 19)



[Harper in denial at G20: "We have no history of colonialism"](#)
[Official Denial](#)



[Phil Fontaine interview with CBC's Barbara Frum, October 30, 1990](#)



[Willy Blackwater interview in *The Toronto Star* on day of Harper's apology](#)



[Scapegoating the Indian residential school, *Alberta Report*, January 26, 1998](#)
This article from the right-wing *Alberta Report* (a magazine which is no longer in circulation) provides an excellent example of bias and denial, despite the federal government's acknowledgement of the facts regarding residential schooling.

Recommended resources



[Professors condemn colleagues' TRC editorial 'Retrograde'](#), *Winnipeg Free Press*, June 6, 2015

Less than a week after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its report on residential schools in Canada, a group of more than 50 University of Manitoba professors are denouncing a pair of their former colleagues who claimed the report exaggerated reality.

Recommended resources



Students create art from painful truth of residential schools
(page 21)



“Where the Blood Mixes” is set in Lytton, site of St. George’s Indian Residential School. This play offers an excellent opportunity for high school students to explore the history and intergenerational impacts of Indian Residential Schools through drama. Where the Blood Mixes by Kevin Loring, publisher PDF of teacher guide – available through the [BCTF library](#).

[Where the Blood Mixes: Study guide](#)
[Clip from Where the Blood Mixes](#)



Ledger Art

Ledger Art is a form of visual storytelling widely used by the First People from the Plains in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. This art form combines the beauty of First Nations art as a means of documenting and retaining memory of traditional practices, stories and ways of life of the First Peoples of North American against the starkly contrasting ledgers and documents of the colonizers as this was a readily available medium upon which to paint.



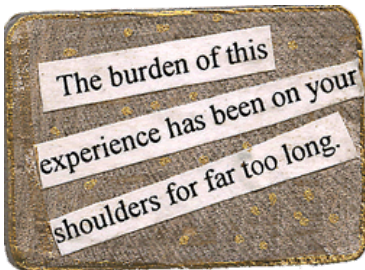
From the Heart - a journey of reconciliation

Over the summer of 2013, a group of over one hundred community members from 16 to 88 years old took part in an unconventional theatre production in Victoria BC. *From the Heart: enter into the journey of reconciliation* was performed in a beautiful 14,000 sq. ft. indoor labyrinth made from salvaged doors and windows, trees, and hundreds of metres of fabric, all lit by paper lantern lights. In the alcoves and chambers of the labyrinth, the audience encountered songs, scenes, and shadow theatre performances created by our ensemble of non-Indigenous Canadians to tell the transformative stories that have deepened our understanding about the lived experience of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Recommended resources



After the Prime Minister's apology,
calls for action
(page 23)



[Canada's apology](#)

The Canadian government's official apology to residential school survivors. (10-minute video)

[Hansard transcript of the federal government's apology to residential school survivors, and responses from Opposition and First Nations leaders](#)



[Chris Bose Apology redux](#)

One Aboriginal artist's satirical response to the apology. (2-minute video)



[News report](#)

Testimony given by survivors of the Port Alberni Residential School during the official visit by the TRC commissioners (2 minutes)

Recommended resources



Resistance and resilience
(page 25)



Savage

Film maker Lisa Jackson explores resistance by children and parents to the Indian Residential School injustices (6-minute video)



Where To From Here

Seven ways to make a difference.



Reconciliation & The Way Forward

Aboriginal Healing Foundation – Collected Essays & Personal Reflections

Recommended resources



Commemoration Canoe on a Journey to Justice
(page 26)



[Teaching about residential school K-7](#)

Sample of books to teach about residential school K-7.

[Strong Nations Resources for Residential Schools - Books for kids](#)



[Responding through Art](#)

Inspired by Tom Phillip's artwork in his book *A Humument*, this art activity allows students to respond creatively.

Recommended resources



Thousands attend Truth and Reconciliation National Event
(page 29)



[Educating Our Youth, Vancouver](#) (4-minute video)

More than 5,000 students participated in Education Day at the TRC National Event in Vancouver. They came away with a new awareness about our shared history, including a deeper understanding of some of their relatives who had been to residential schools.

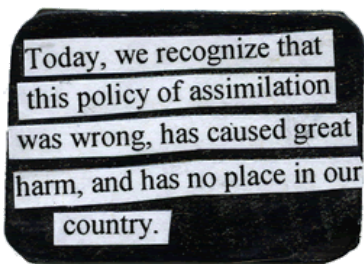


[Residential Schools Education Day in Calling Lake](#)

Recommended resources



Landmark TRC report points the way forward
(page 31)



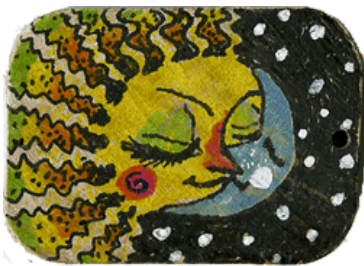
[Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future](#)

In over 350 meticulously-documented pages, the Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada offers a compelling narrative about the Commission's activities, the history of residential schools, their legacy, and the challenge of reconciliation. It also includes 94 Calls to Action and 200 additional pages of oral history from survivors across the country. When published in full, the report is expected to span six volumes.



[Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples](#)

The **Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP)** was a Canadian Royal Commission established in 1991 to address many issues of Aboriginal status that had come to light with recent events such as the Oka Crisis and the Meech Lake Accord. The commission culminated in a final report of 4000 pages, published in 1996. The original report set out a 20-year agenda for implementing changes.



[Letter sent by Phil Fontaine, Past National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations,](#)
[to James Anaya, UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Rights,](#) sent October 2013

Recommended resources



[Blanket Exercise](#) (3 minutes video clip)



[Kairos BC Edition Blanket Exercise](#) (for Grades 4-12)

This one hour participatory workshop developed by Kairos is now available through the [BC Teachers' Federation](#). Blankets arranged on the floor represent land and participants are invited to step into the roles of First Nations, Inuit and later Métis peoples. The workshop helps people to understand how the colonization of this land impacts those who were here long before settlers arrived. It engages people's minds and hearts in understanding why the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples is often broken and how we can take action together.



[Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action Report](#)



[What is Reconciliation?](#)

Chief Justice Murray Sinclair (3 minute video)

Recommended resources



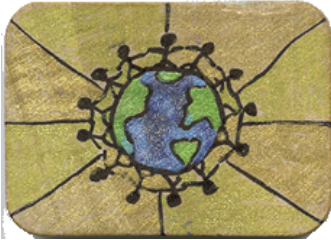
Students and Teachers Create "Heart Gardens"
for Survivors
(page 33)



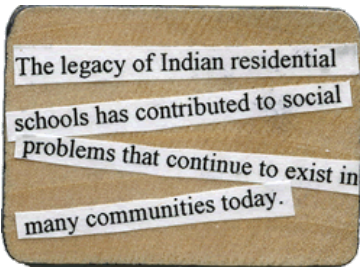
[Heart Gardens Booklet](#)

A sampling of the beautiful hearts that were sent from Byrne Creek Secondary students and teachers for the closing ceremony in Ottawa in June.

Recommended resources



Where to from Here?
(page 34)



[Overcoming History - Education: Cause and Solution](#) by Justice Murray Sinclair



Strong Nations Resources for Residential Schools

[Books for kids](#)
[Books for teens](#)
[Books for adults](#)



First Nations Education Steering Committee:

[Indian Residential Schools and Reconciliation Resources for Grade 5, 10 11 and 12](#)

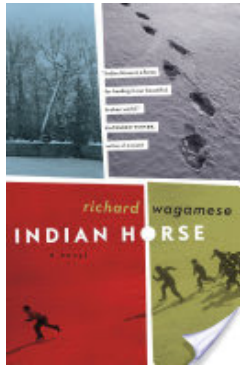


["IMPORTANT TO US"](#)

A beautiful song that gives much hope for reconciliation, written and performed by students from Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School.

[International Students: First Peoples courses open eyes and minds](#)
from BCTF Teacher Magazine, Nov./Dec. 2015, page 27

Recommended resources



Indian Horse

A beautiful novel by Ojibway writer, Richard Wagamese.

Saul Indian Horse is in trouble, and there seems to be only one way out. As he journeys back through his life as a northern Ojibway, from the horrors of residential school to his triumphs on the hockey rink, he must question everything he knows. In *Indian Horse*, author Richard Wagamese has crafted a wise and magical novel about love, family and the power of spirit.

A Union of Professionals

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